

300K Matching Grant Athletic Field Improvement Program

Program

To provide opportunities for athletic organizations to submit proposals to match funds for specific field improvements at FCPS middle and elementary schools and educational centers. Proposals can be submitted to improve school fields currently underutilized or not utilized for community use game play. The program would provide funding to improve fields to game quality.

Matching Funds Available

\$300,000

Who can apply

Any sport organization, youth or adult, league or group recognized by CRS and the FCAC. Partnering with other non-sport organizations is permitted.

Approved Uses of Funds

1. Organizations will be required to provide a 50% match of funds for requested playing field improvements.
2. Priority will be given to those improvements that:
 - upgrade fields from practice to game designated fields
 - develop new game fields, or
 - are necessary to ensure the safety of players.Amenities such as bleachers, goals, batting cages, benches and dugouts may be considered for matching funds.
3. Matched funds can be authorized for fields at elementary, middle schools and centers that are available for community use.
4. Reconfiguration of fields will be considered when possible to increase game or practice space but will not be approved when it impacts another user group.
5. Concerns of other scheduled users of the proposed field will be sought and considered in the planning of the project.

Funding Guidelines for FY 2003

1. Projects that come in over budget must either be scaled back to stay within the approved budgetary amount or the organization can cover the overage, or, if funds are available, the magisterial district representative can use surplus funds.
2. A project that cannot be done as a result of circumstances beyond the organizations control (e.g. risk management issues, FCPS will not approve it) will be cancelled. Funds will go to the next project with the highest priority in the district.
3. Proposal submissions will be accepted from any recognized athletic organization or sport group including adult groups.
4. Project must have the school principal's approval before it can be considered for funding. Organizations are encouraged to submit the principal's approval with their proposals to speed up consideration of their project.
5. Organizations can include contractor's estimates with their proposal.
6. Partnerships (more than one proposal by different groups for the same field) are encouraged and will be evaluated based on their merits and the criticality of the need.
7. Funds approved in FY 2003 must be spent on FY 2003 projects.
8. Single sport organizations are limited to a total of 2 proposals. Multi-sport organizations may submit 1 proposal per sport, but no more than 3 proposals total.
9. County funding will not exceed \$30,000 per project. All matches are 50/50 – ½ from County funds, ½ from sponsoring organization funds.
10. Funds will first be distributed by Magisterial District and prioritized within each district. Unused district funds will go into a countywide pool to fund projects of high priority as determined by the FCAC committee.

Process for Proposal Selection

1. Sports Organization's Request Due September 6, 2002
 - Proposals must be prioritized
 - Proposal requests must include the completed field survey and the signed the matching grant application.

2. Fairfax County Athletic Council (FCAC) committee of magisterial district representatives evaluates proposals.
 - Proposals are prioritized, based upon the priority criteria established and usage information obtained from CRS.
3. Athletic Council, CRS or FCPA representatives will conduct a site visit to evaluate the field needs and ensure projects are scoped appropriately.
4. CRS will provide to the magisterial representatives a profile of each field identified for grant funding. The profile will include friend of field agreements, field assignments for all seasons, a rating indicating likelihood of field meeting current and future needs of organization.
5. Funds are distributed equitably among the Magisterial Districts and prioritized within each district.
6. Once the FCAC has reviewed all proposals, conducted a site visit and prioritized the needs of their district, the FCAC committee chairperson submits its recommendations to the CRS Director, who makes the final decision.
7. The final decision is announced by September 20, 2002.

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| Points Awarded/Priority Criteria |
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1. The total field score indicated on the field survey will be used as the base score for prioritization of projects. Authorized individuals will verify field ratings.
2. Additional points will be awarded for each field proposal for the following reasons:

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| 10 points... | Upgrading existing field from practice field to game field |
| 5 points ... | Future likelihood of sustaining field improvements – friend of field or commitment to obtain a friend of field agreement |
| 5 points... | Improvements are in locations with highest need |
3. Field improvement proposals will be prioritized based on total points and the estimated additional game use resulting from improvements.

Matching Funds

1. Once a project has been authorized for matched funds, organizations will be notified via a letter. Letter will include cost of the project after review by contractors and project managers.
2. Matching funds must come from the sponsoring organization or sources other than Fairfax County government funded programs.
3. Groups will be expected to submit the total matched funds within 60 days of notification.
4. Projects will not begin until matched funds are received.
5. Project authorization will be cancelled if funds are not received within the 60-day notification period.

Application Process

Requests and Field Profiles are due September 6, 2002 to
Community and Recreation Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, 10th floor
Fairfax, VA 22035-1115

OR, faxed to Athletic Services at 703-324-5546

Proposals received after 5:00 PM on September 6, 2002 will be considered late.